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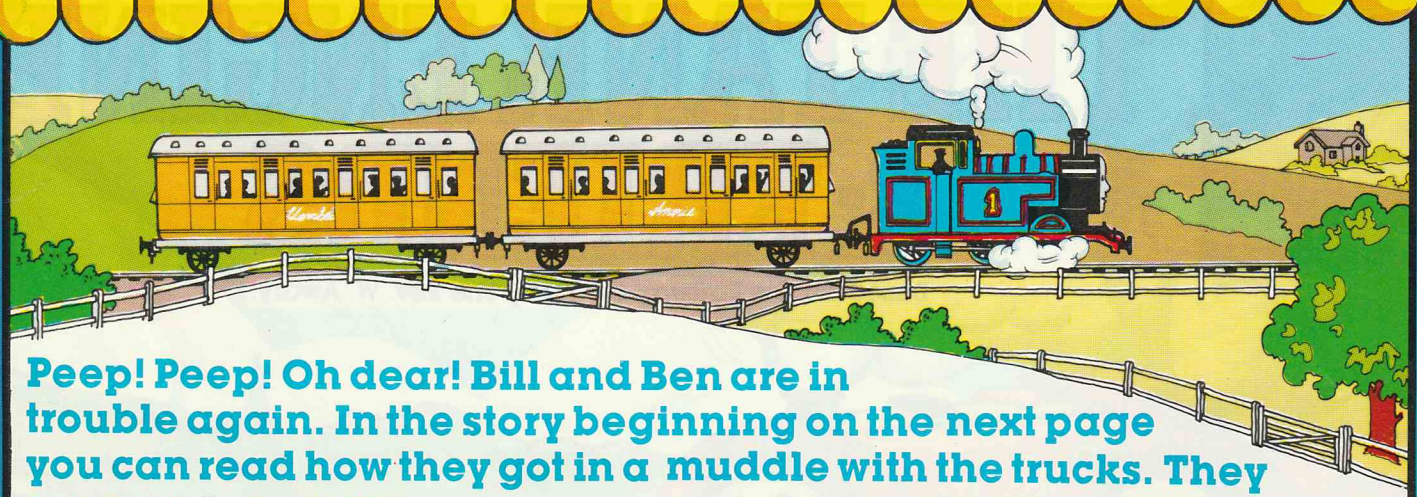
All New Stories!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

Those trucks are causing trouble again!

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE



Peep! Peep! Oh dear! Bill and Ben are in trouble again. In the story beginning on the next page you can read how they got in a muddle with the trucks. They let the trucks tell them where to put things and that will never do. Oh Bill! Oh Ben! Peep! Peep!

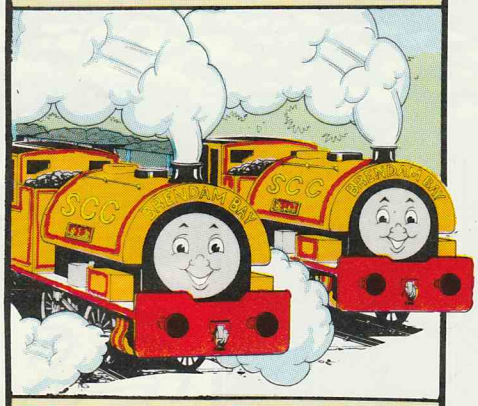
DON'T MISS AN ISSUE!

Have your favourite magazine delivered straight to your home every fortnight and become a member of our Club at the same time! A year's subscription to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** costs £9.75 and includes an extra splendid **Thomas pack!** Full details are on page 7.

THOMAS'S GAME!

On page 10 you will find the second part of Thomas's splendid **board game**. Only two more issues to go and then you will have the full game to play! Isn't it exciting? Peep! Peep!

BILL AND BEN SAY...



We are Really Cheerful Engines!

Don't forget that on Monday afternoons you can watch the adventures of Thomas and his friends on ITV!

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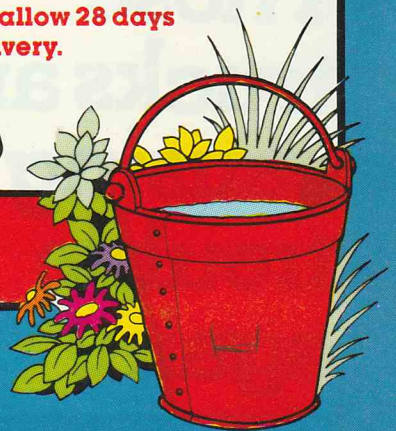
Would you like to join Thomas's Club without taking out a year's subscription? Then just collect **3 tokens** like the one below. Send one **yellow**, one **red** and one **green** one, together with a stamped, self-addressed envelope, to: *Thomas's Membership Cards, Marvel Comics, 13/15 Arundel Street, London W2.*

Please allow 28 days for delivery.



THOMAS TOKEN

In our next issue: Henry teaches James a lesson!

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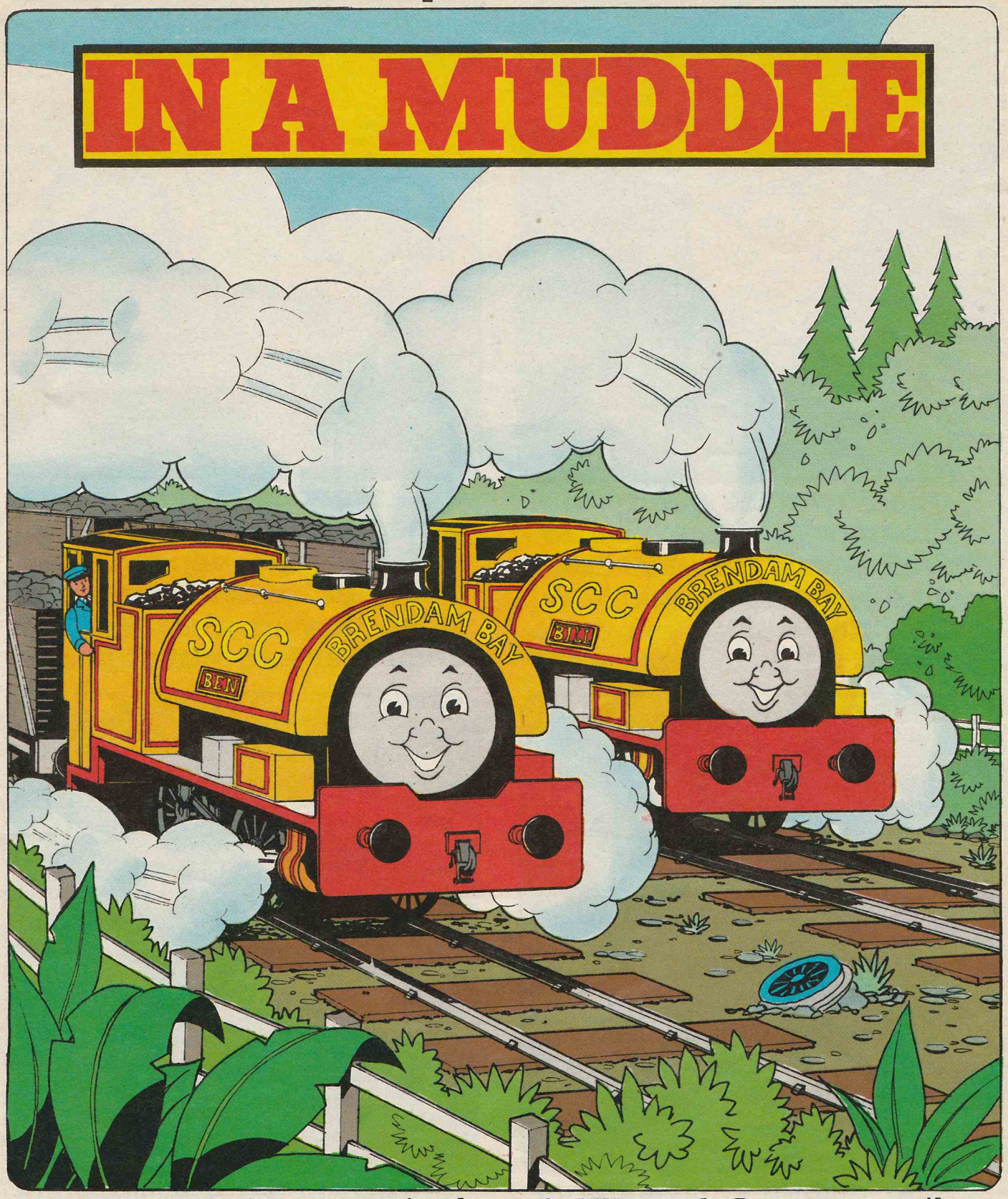
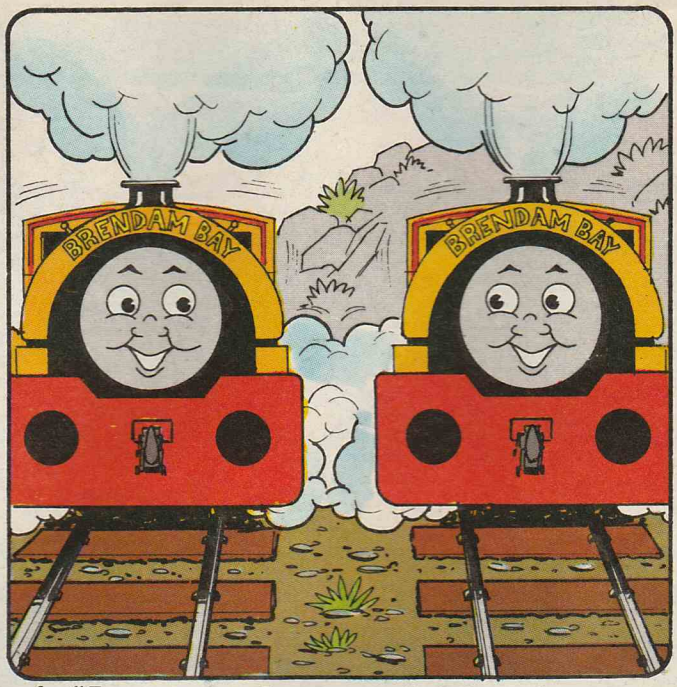
A listen and look story!



1. Bill and Ben are tank engine twins. They pull the trucks of china clay from the clay pits to the big harbour. They also work at the slate quarry sometimes.

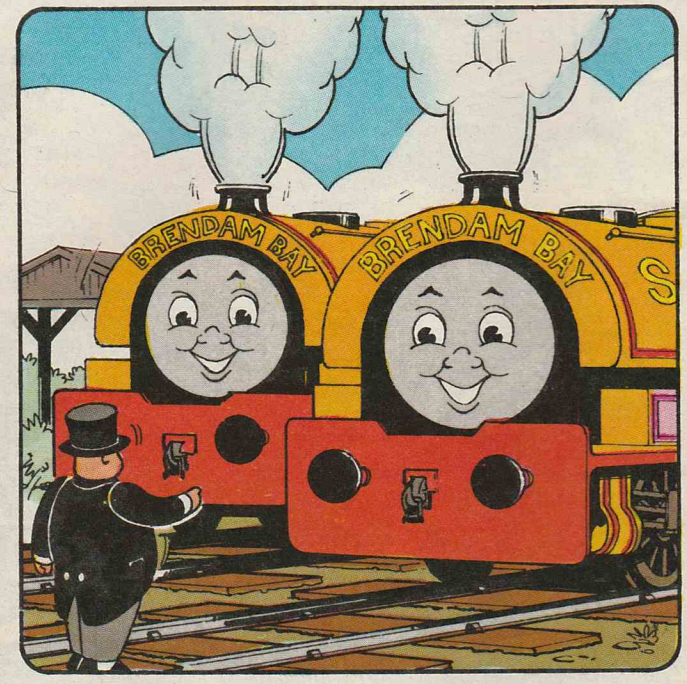
2. Bill and Ben are rather cheeky. They love to play tricks on the other engines. They think it is very funny, but sometimes it interferes with their work.

3. One day at the quarry, the stationmaster came over to Bill and Ben. "The Fat Controller just telephoned," he said. "He wants you two down at the main station."

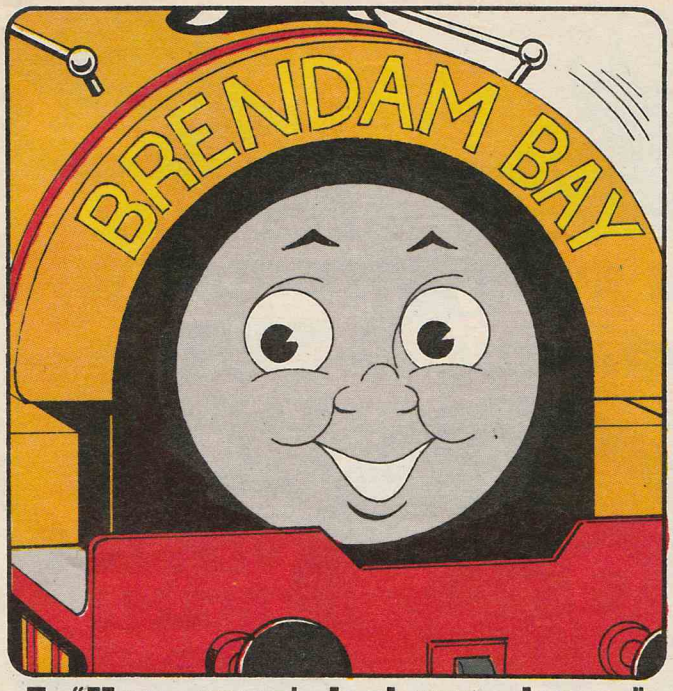


4. "I wonder what we've done this time," said Bill. "It must be you," replied Ben, "I've not done anything." When they arrived, the Fat Controller was waiting.

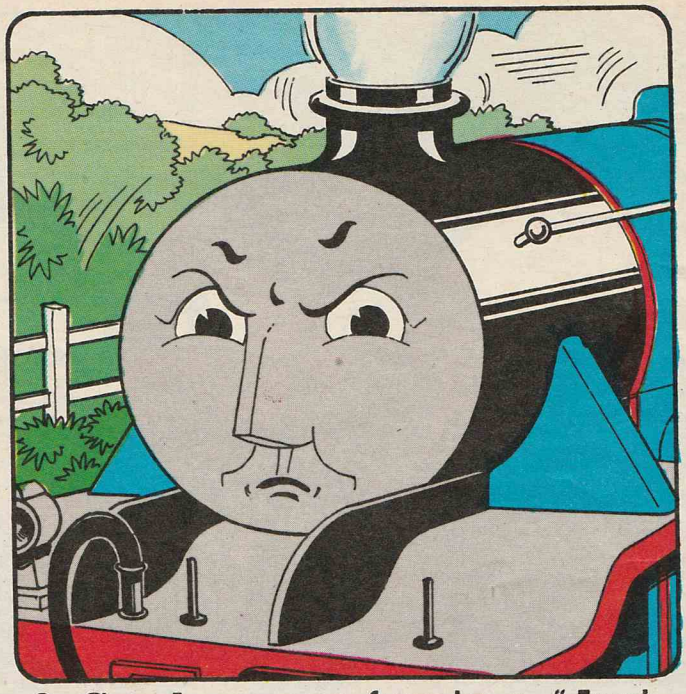
5. "I'm going to need your help in the yard," said the Fat Controller. "I am very short of engines just now. You will have to work hard, and no messing about."



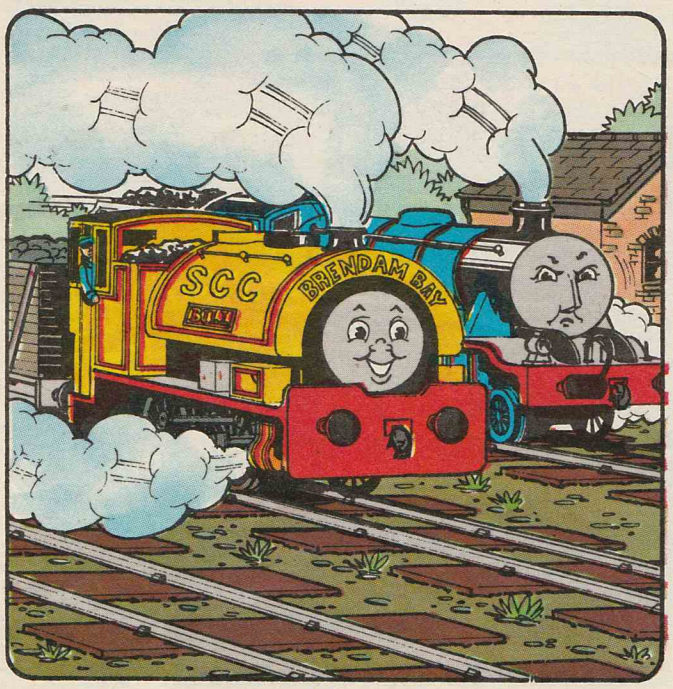
6. "Yes, sir. No, sir," said Bill and Ben. "We'll do our best, sir." They set to work shunting trucks and coaches. The other engines were very snooty towards them.



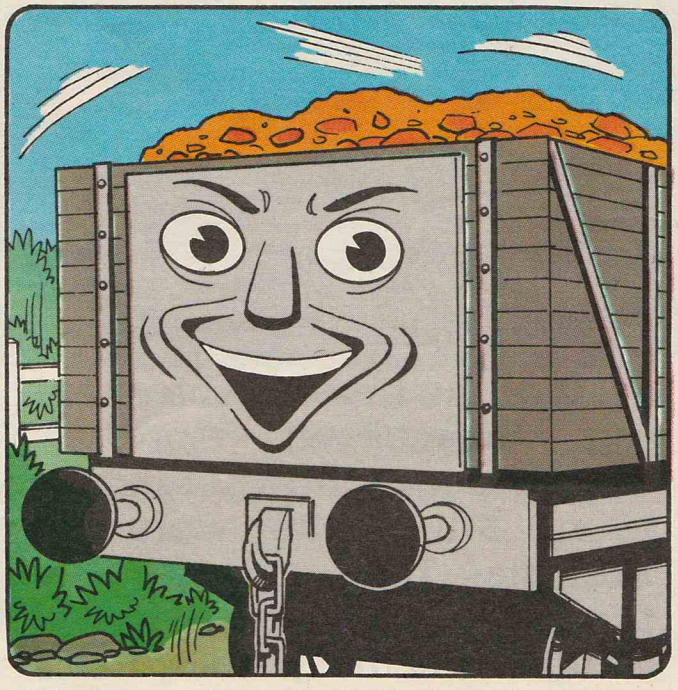
7. "You must behave here," puffed Gordon. "This is not a dirty old quarry." "Excuse me," giggled Ben. "But when we saw you, we thought this was the scrapyard!"



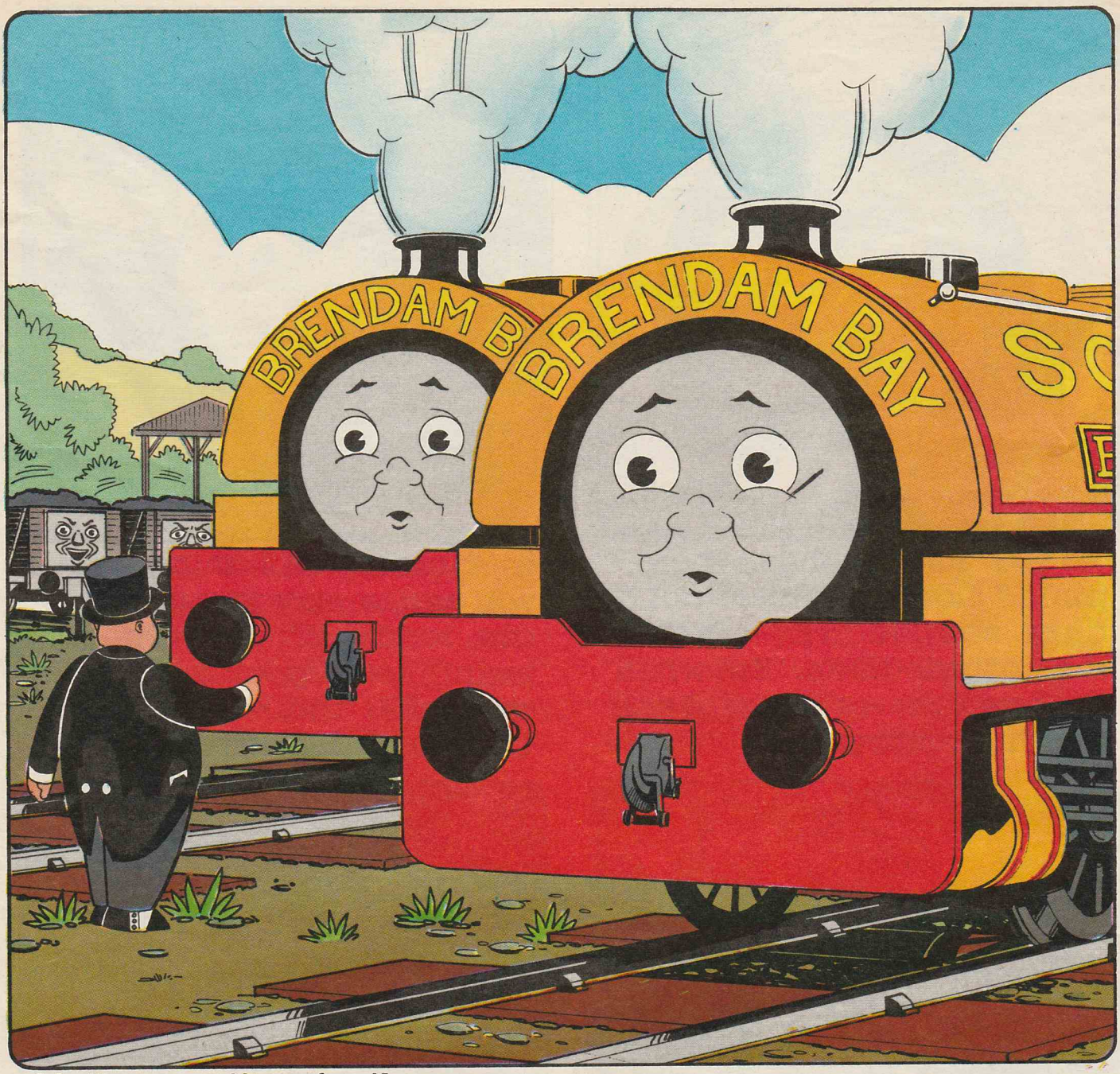
8. Gordon was fuming. "Just you make sure my coaches are ready for my evening train!" he said and stormed away. Bill and Ben laughed. They teased Gordon all day.



9. Whenever they had some trucks they would whistle and say. "Are these your coaches, Gordon?" Bill and Ben loved joking, but all the same they worked hard.



10. They bumped the trucks to show they meant business. "No need for that!" shouted the trucks. "We'll help you find your way about." But trucks can be very tricky.



11. It came time for the evening train, but Gordon's coaches were nowhere to be found. Bill and Ben were in a muddle. They had let the trucks tell them where to put things and the yard was all mixed up. Trucks were on coaches' sidings and coaches were on trucks' sidings. Gordon and his passengers waited impatiently.

12 .At last, Bill and Ben found the missing coaches. They rushed them over to Gordon and the evening train set off. But it was already twenty minutes late! The Fat Controller was not pleased. "This kind of help, is no help at all," he said. "Bill and Ben, I am sending you back to the quarry!" The twins felt sad and foolish.

The story continues on page 17!

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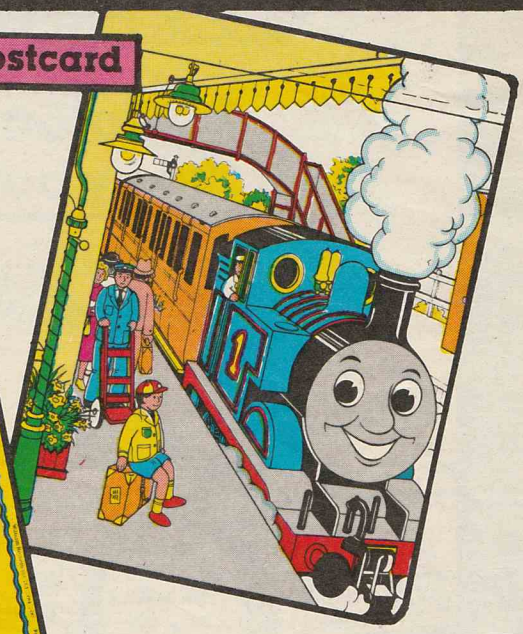
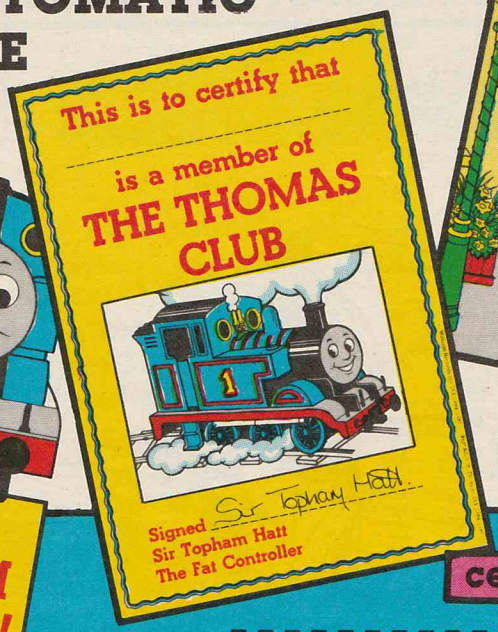
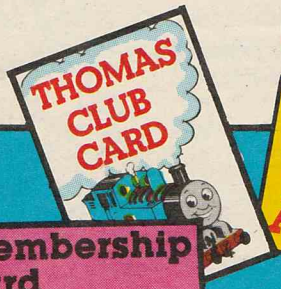


postcard



certificate



membership card

door hanger

It costs just **£9.75** to be sent a total of **26 issues** of **Thomas the Tank engine & Friends** – and this includes postage and packing. You will also receive our very special subscriber's **pack** (above). Just fill in the form and send it, together with a cheque or postal order for £9.75 to: *Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

Please allow 28 days for delivery of your first magazine and special pack.

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Name.....

Age..... **Birthday**.....

Address.....

.....

My favourite part of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends magazine is .....

.....

Signature of parent/guardian.....

.....

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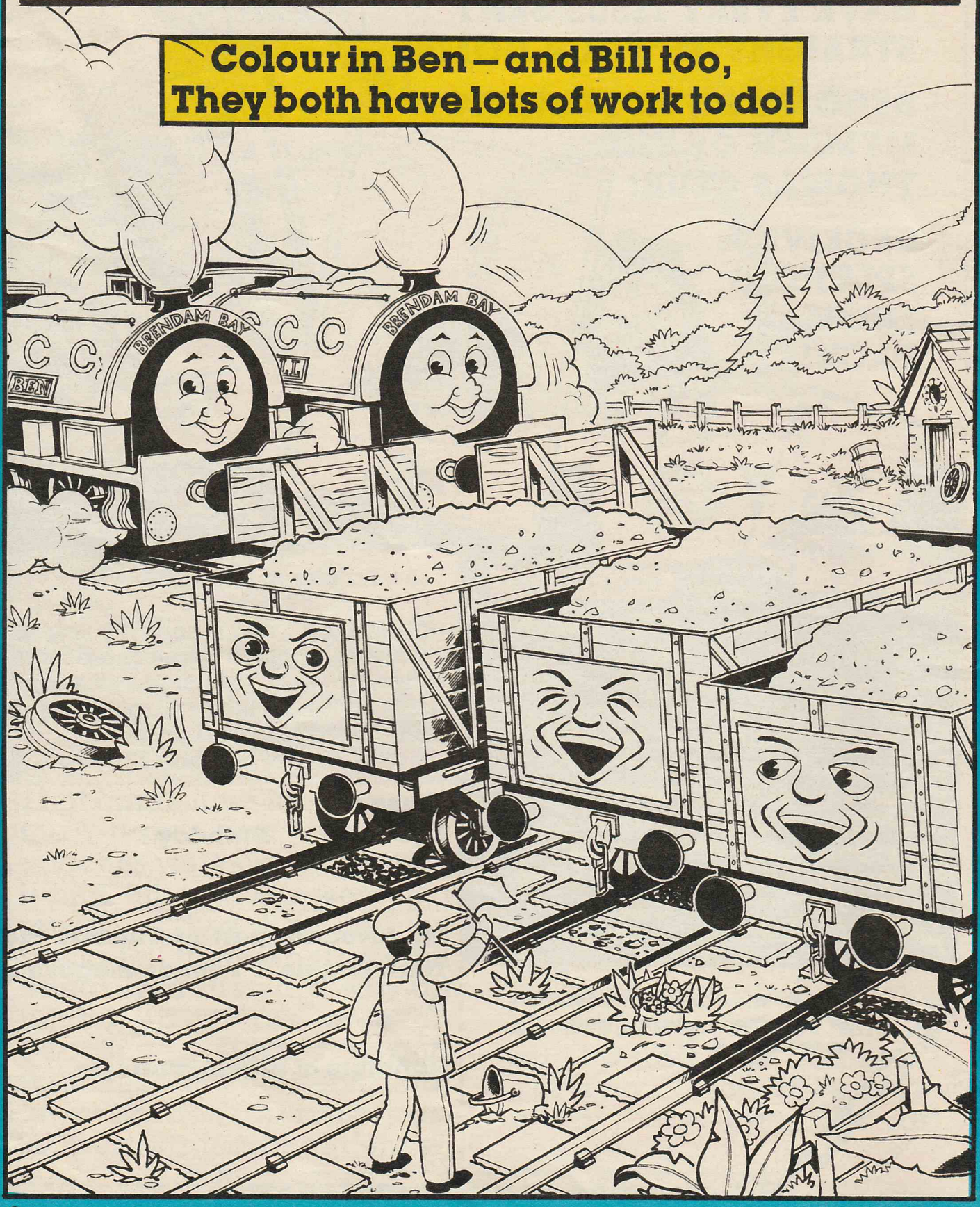
Please make your cheque or postal order payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.

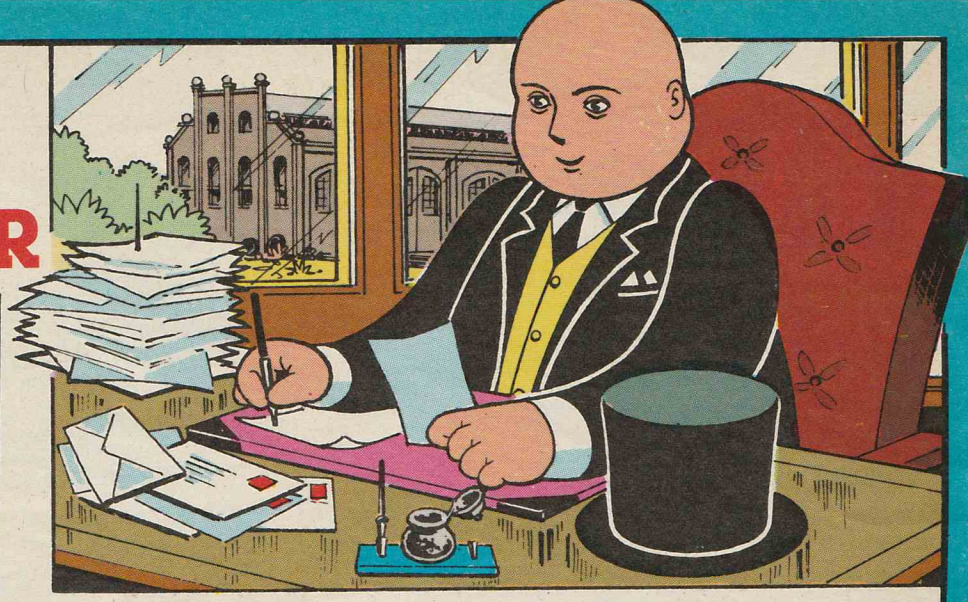
See Thomas, Percy and James's GERBER FRUIT DRINK PACKS for details of a **£1 DISCOUNT OFFER!** In the shops now!

COLOURING TIME!

Colour in Ben – and Bill too,
They both have lots of work to do!



Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

ACROSS THE SEA!

Dear Fat Controller,
I live in West Germany and my Grandma sends me my Thomas magazines. Have you ever been to Germany?

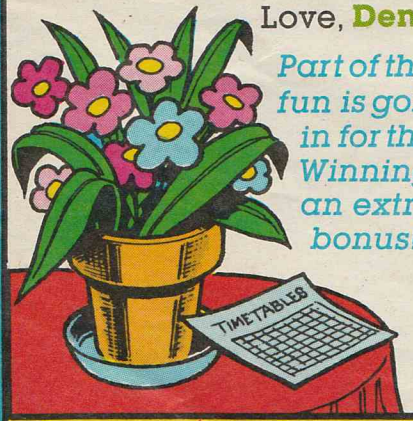
Love from **David**, aged 3½.

No, but I should dearly love to go one day. I have an old photograph of a very splendid German steam engine on my wall.

UNLUCKY!

Dear Fat Controller,
My brother Michael loves Thomas. He has all the tapes and all the books and all the magazines and he goes in for all the competitions but he never wins.

Love, **Denise**.



Part of the fun is going in for them. Winning is an extra bonus!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
We went to see my granny and on the way I saw 2 dumper trucks and a digger. I saw a tractor like Terence too and I told my granny about the dumper trucks.

Love from **Stewart**, aged 3.

These trucks are very useful. I have one or two working on my railway, you know. Splendid machines, eh?

Stewart wins a set of Thomas the Tank Engine vinyl stickers from Scorpio Products International Ltd.

LOOK 'ERE!

Dear Fat Controller,
I asked my mum why the engines do not have ears, but she did not know. Could you tell me the answer?

Love from **Alan**, aged 3 (23163).

My engines do not have ears for the very same reason, Alan, that you do not have buffers or a steam valve. It is just the way they are made, you see.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our very best birthday wishes go to:

Ian Coultard, Jamie Wood (15247), Michael Wood (15247), John Greenway, Christopher Polding (0593), Matthew Bostack (8694), Nicholas Minton, Jonathan (20220) and Robert Ashley, Matthew Ray Lambert, Graeme Turnbull (9775), James Andrews, Oliver Reynolds (15405), James O'Connor (15703), Adam James Hingley (22356), Michael Presly (20459), Kate Harris (11981), David (2378) and Andrew Thomas, Melaine Rose (3084), Benjamin Baraniak (7507), Stephen Hockley, Michale James Bird (15962), Christopher Chant, Mark Ronan (4276), Christopher Newton, James Abbott, Garry Baker (2874), Paul Quayle (12345), James Kent, Philip Greenlow Thomas Ripley (17733), Ian Coulthard, Thomas Brown and his sister, Harry James and his gerbil and Jared Heathfield Preston (17877).

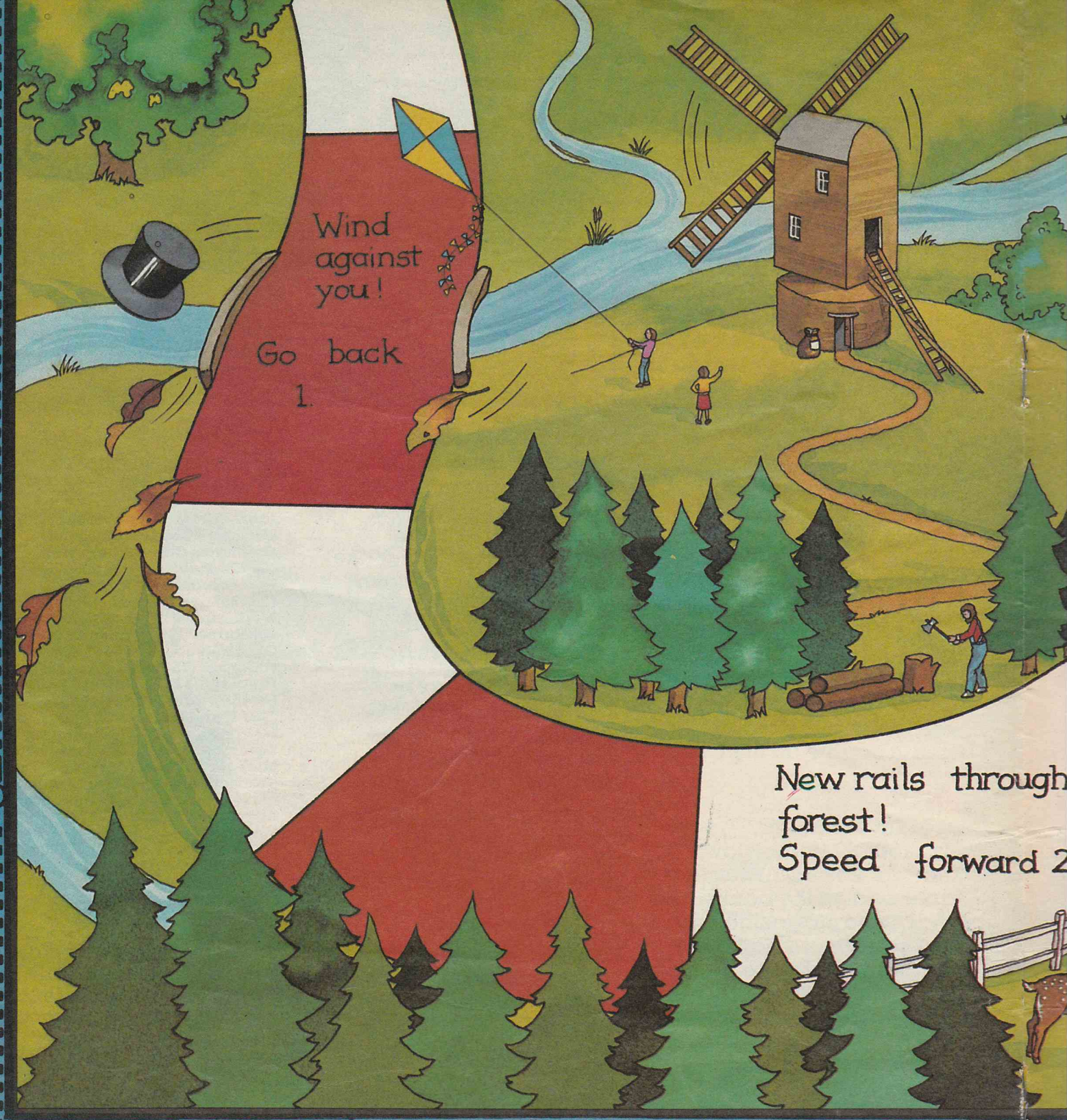
If you would like a birthday mention, just send details on a postcard please, at least **8 weeks in advance**. I cannot **promise** to print every birthday I receive, but I will do my best!

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.



THOMAS'S Game Part 2

This is the second part of Thomas's dice game. Don't miss the next two issues of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for the third and fourth parts! Stick this double page on to thin card, cut the blue border off along the dotted lines and cut out your second counter. This part of the game will fit below the part from our last issue – the edges will overlap a bit and you can trim them to match exactly.

Brakes stiff.

Go back 1.

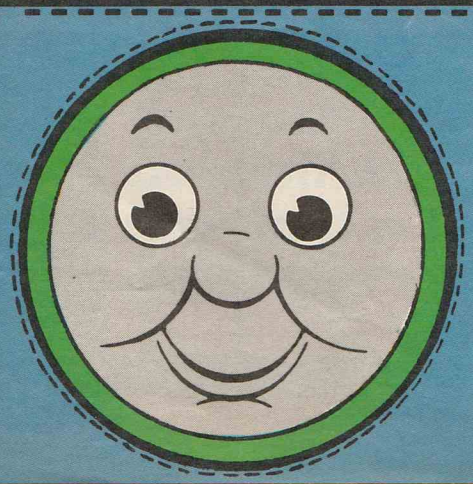
Coal burning well. Have another go.

Whistle to Harold!

Move forward 1.

rough

ward 2.



What colour is the kite?

What is the man in the forest doing?

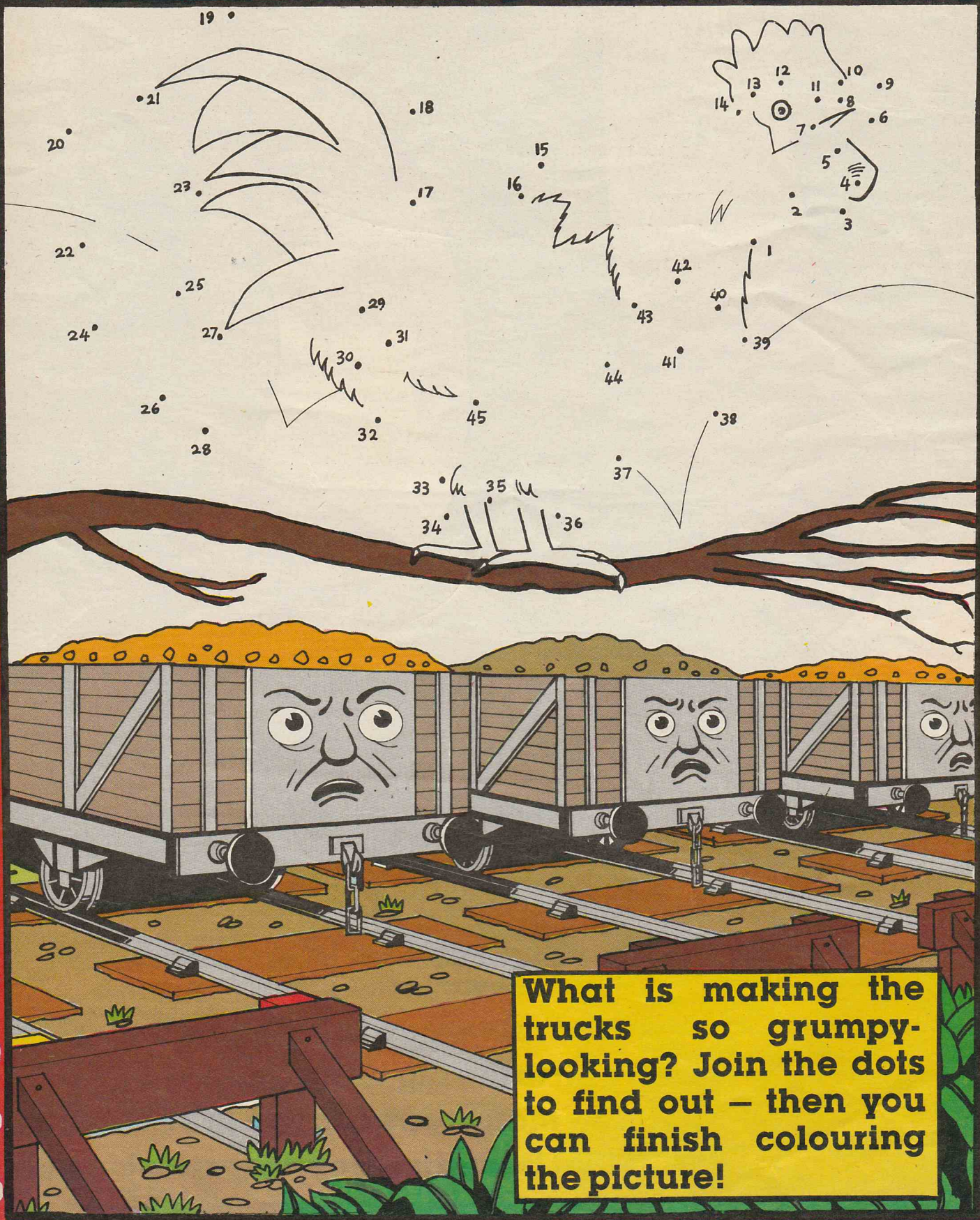
Point to the big bird!

How many cows can you see?

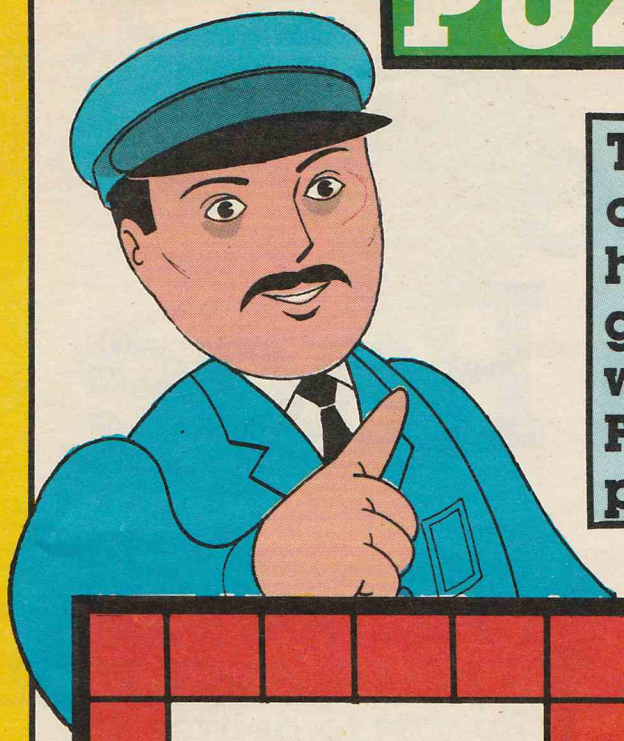
What is floating down the river?

What is making the windmill's sails go round?

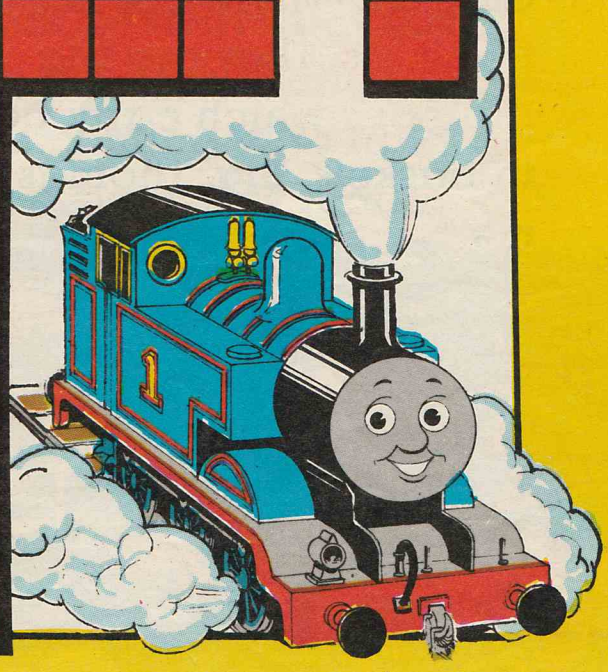
JOIN THE DOTS!



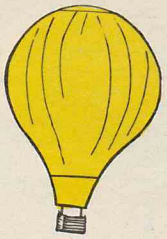
PUZZLE TIME!



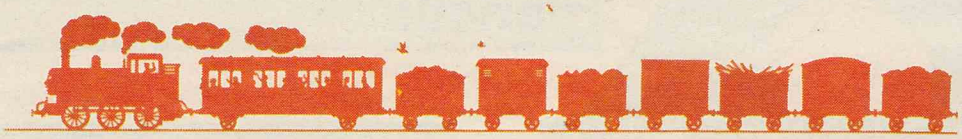
Thomas's driver has overslept! Can you show him the quickest way to get to where Thomas is waiting at the station? Follow the route with a pencil!



A read-aloud story!



The Balloon Race



Something very exciting was happening on the Island of Sodor. The Mayor had decided to hold a Balloon Race. Everyone was excited – even the engines.

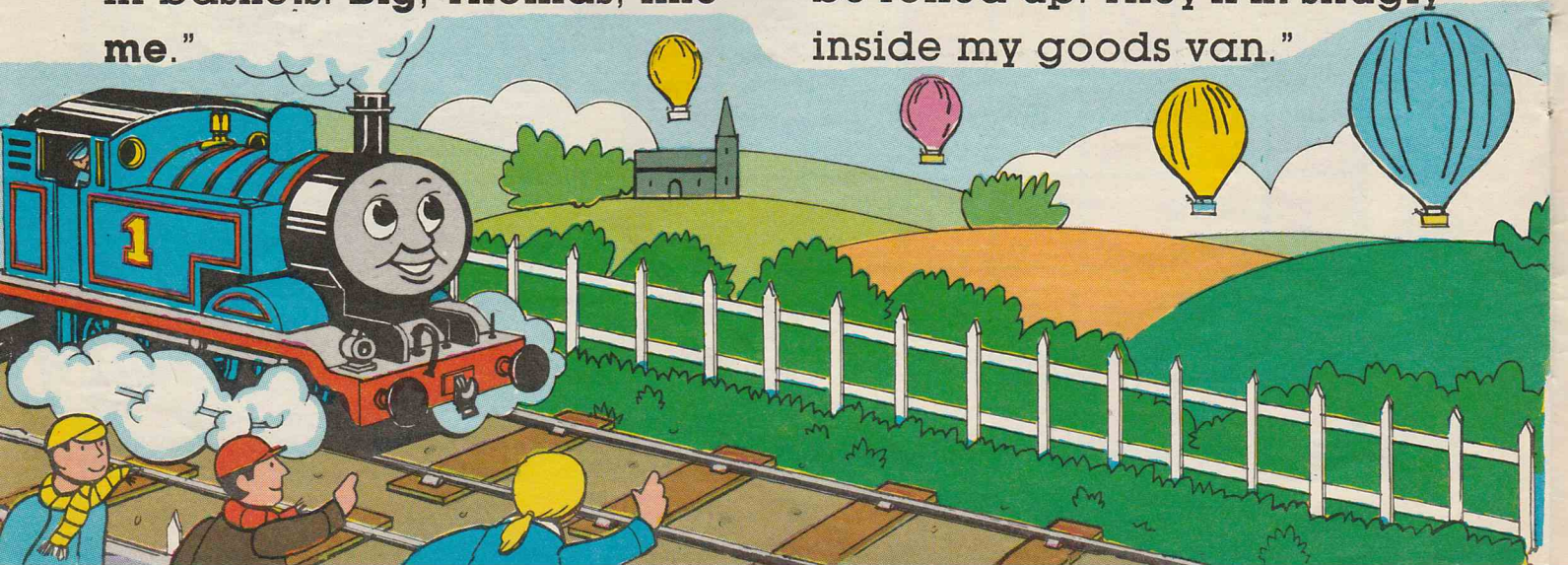
"I like balloons," said Thomas. "I like it when they go pop."

"Silly Thomas," chuckled Gordon. "These are not party balloons. They are big balloons which carry people in baskets. **Big**, Thomas, like **me**."

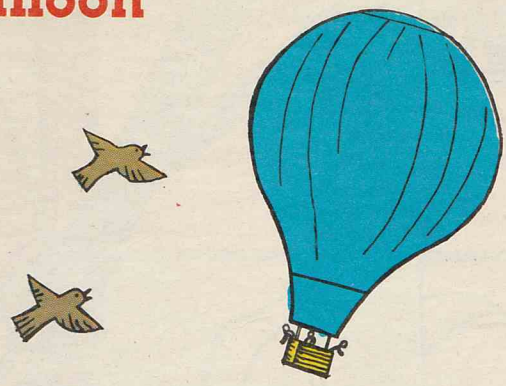
James was feeling proud. He was to deliver the balloons and baskets to the village square.

"But how will they fit the balloons into your goods van, James?" asked Thomas. "They are bigger than the church steeple!"

James explained. "That's only when they are inflated, Thomas, which means filled with air. Before that they can be rolled up. They'll fit snugly inside my goods van."



balloon



James delivered the balloons and the baskets to the village square. "I wish I could stop and see the race," he said.

"So do I, James," said his driver. "But we have work to do."

When all the balloons had been inflated, the referee fired his starting gun. The balloons rose gently into the air. They could be seen as far away as the lighthouse at sea.

James was coming back from delivering supplies to the harbour when he saw the most amazing sight. One of the balloons had sprung a leak. The balloonist had to bring it down quickly. It had landed on the railway line and James was heading straight towards it.

"The brakes! The brakes!" cried James, anxiously.

James's driver let off steam and pulled on the brakes, and James slowed to a halt.

"By jove, that was close," said the balloonist. "What a clever engine you are to stop in time. But I'm afraid I've lost the race."

"Never mind," said James's driver. "We'll take you back to the village green for some refreshments."

The driver and guard helped to load the balloon and basket into James's goods van. Then James puffed away, towards the village green.

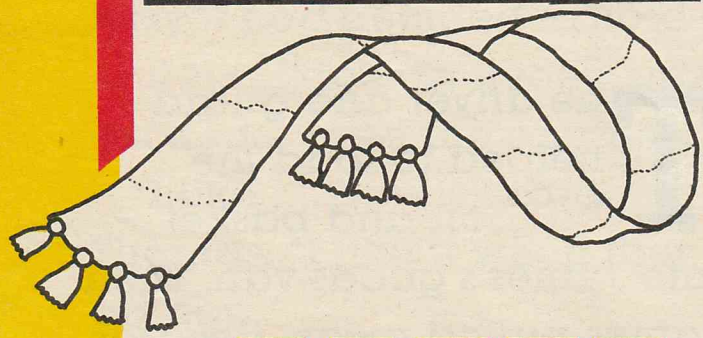
When he arrived at the green the other balloons where coming in to land. What a sight they made. Dozens of brightly coloured balloons drifting lazily down from the sky.

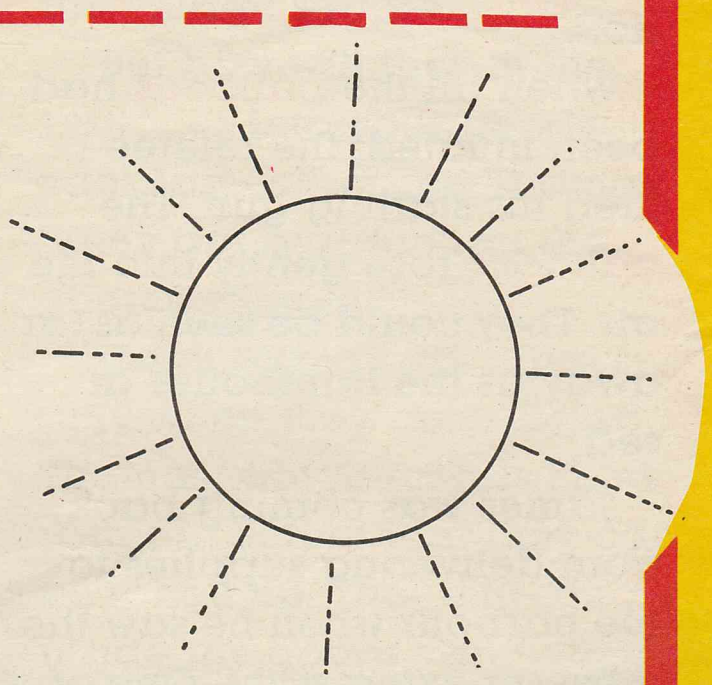
"I've seen the balloon race, after all," said James, cheerfully.

THE END

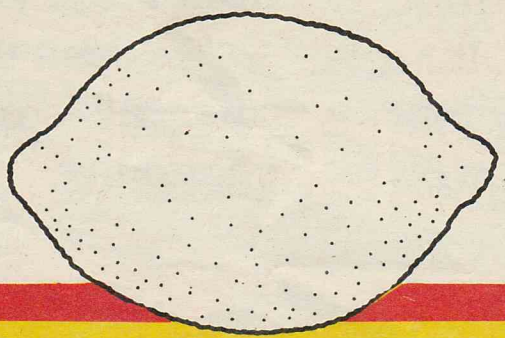
Daisy's YELLOW page!

Look at these pictures. Can you pick out their names from the box below? Label each picture, and then colour each one in – yellow!

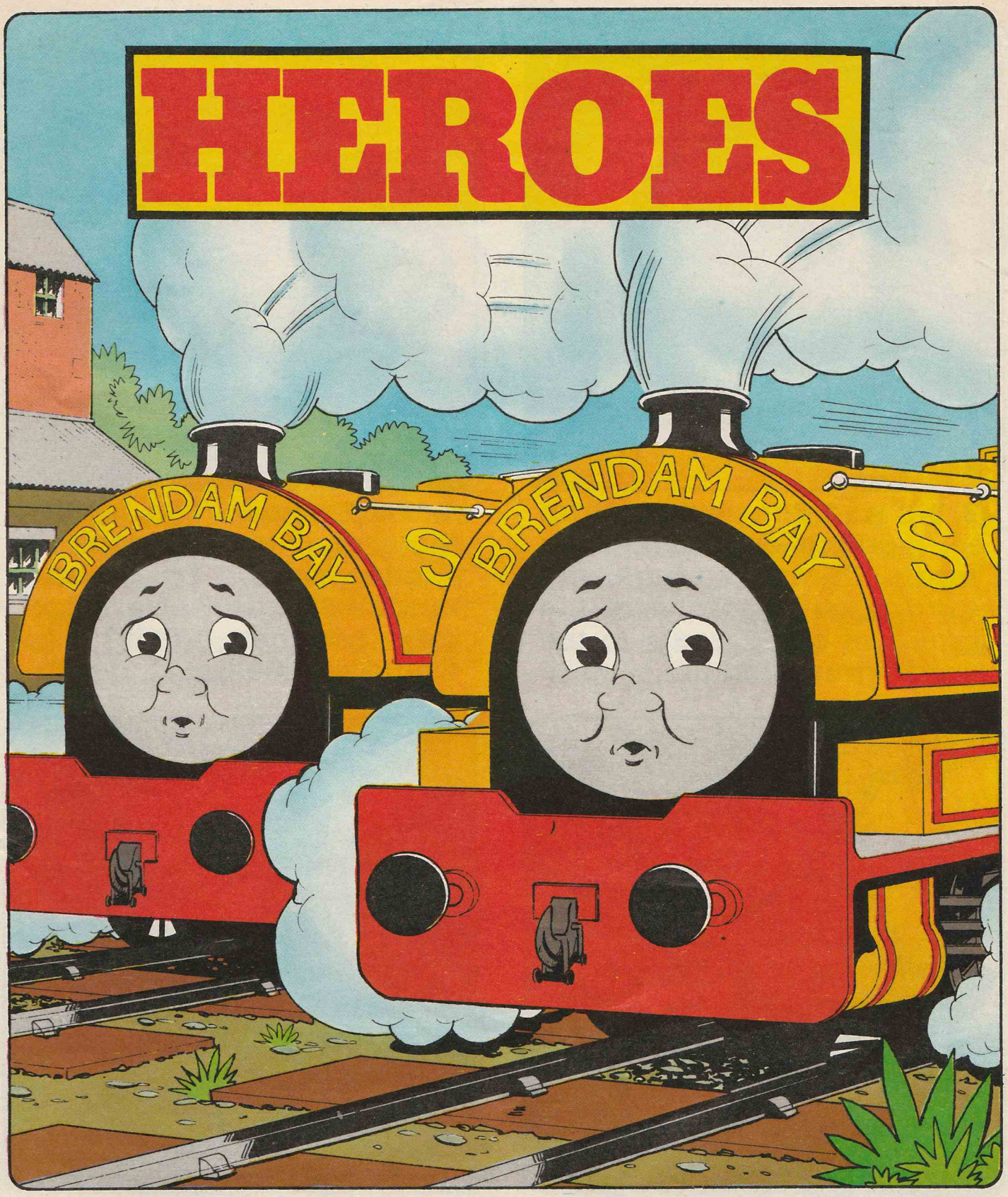




banana sun
lemon scarf

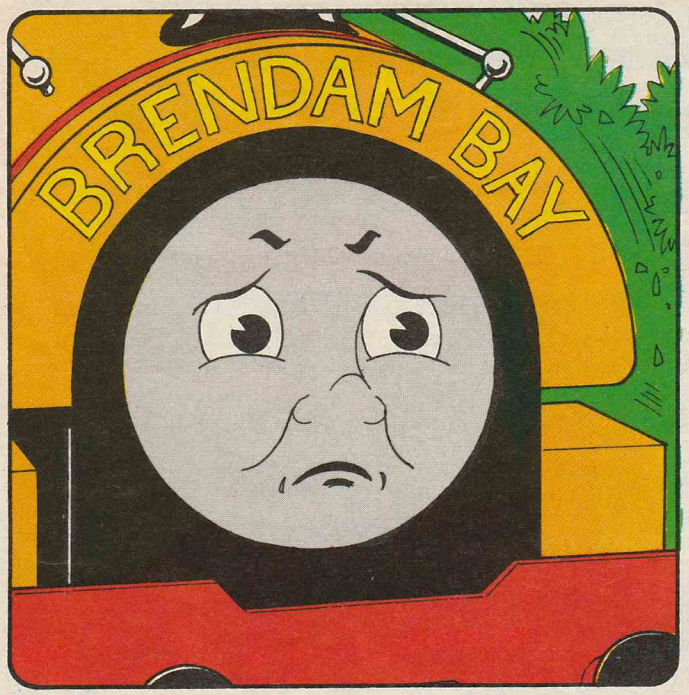


HEROES



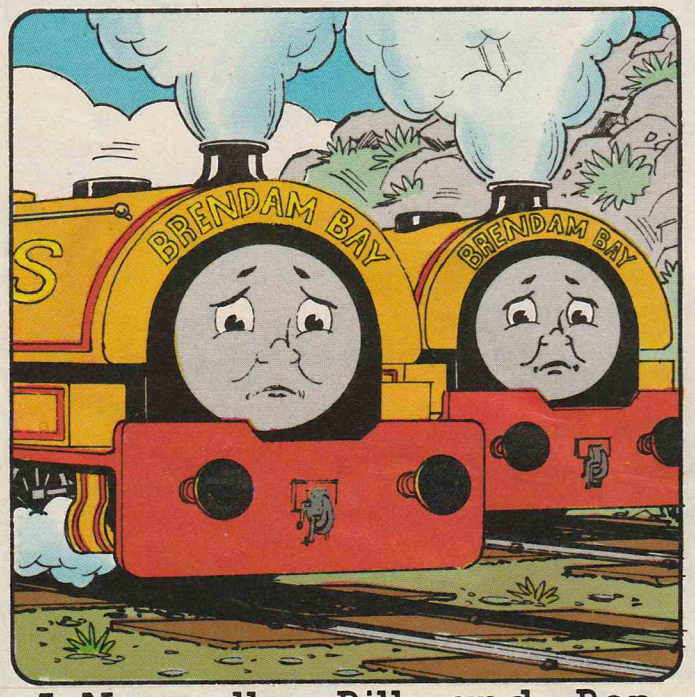
1. Bill and Ben were very sad after their muddle in the yard. They did not like the Fat Controller being cross with them. They puffed along towards the quarry.

2. They met Edward, pulling his evening train. Edward whistled, "Peeep pip! Peeep pip! Cheer up! Cheer up!" But the twins were too sad to whistle back.

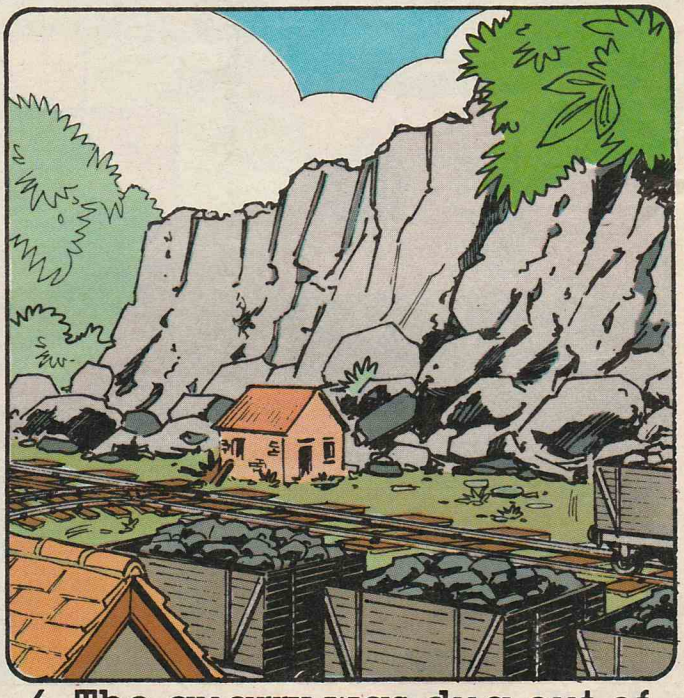


3. Bill and Ben settled down to working in the quarry again. They were rough with the trucks. "Trucks were the cause of our muddle in the yard," grumbled Bill.

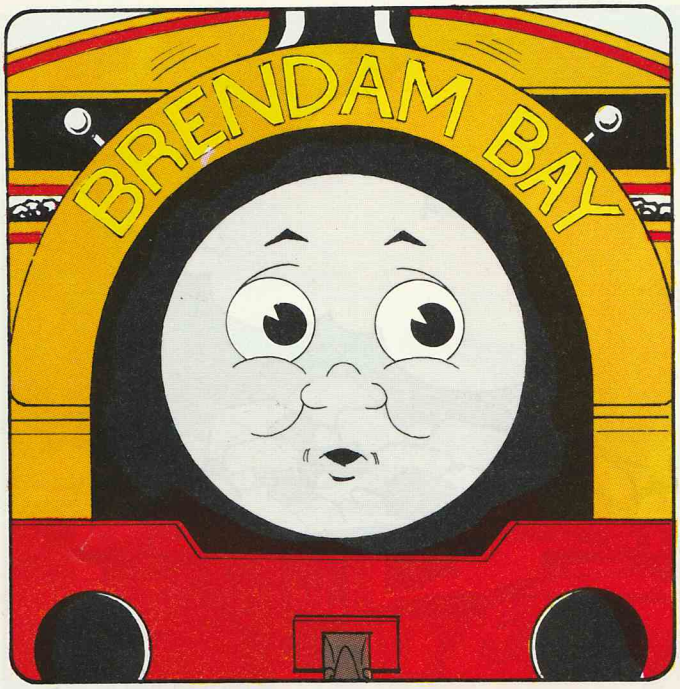
4. "Yes," said Ben. "Give these ones extra bumps." If Gordon passed by, he only made things worse. "Lost any coaches lately?" he would whistle, mockingly.



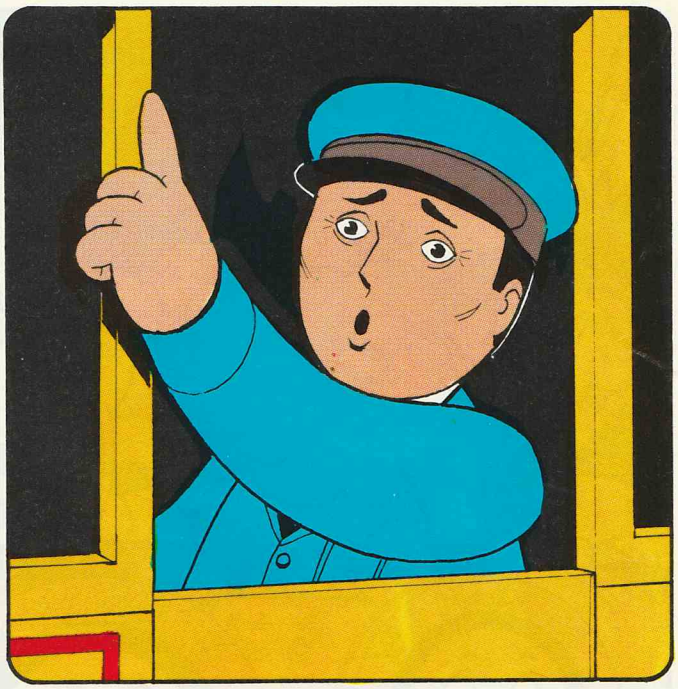
5. Normally, Bill and Ben would have laughed it off, but they were still too sad. They were disappointed in themselves and in no mood for jokes and jests.



6. The quarry was dug out of the hillside. Its sides were steep cliffs of rock where men have cut away the slate. Bill and Ben would collect truckloads of slate.

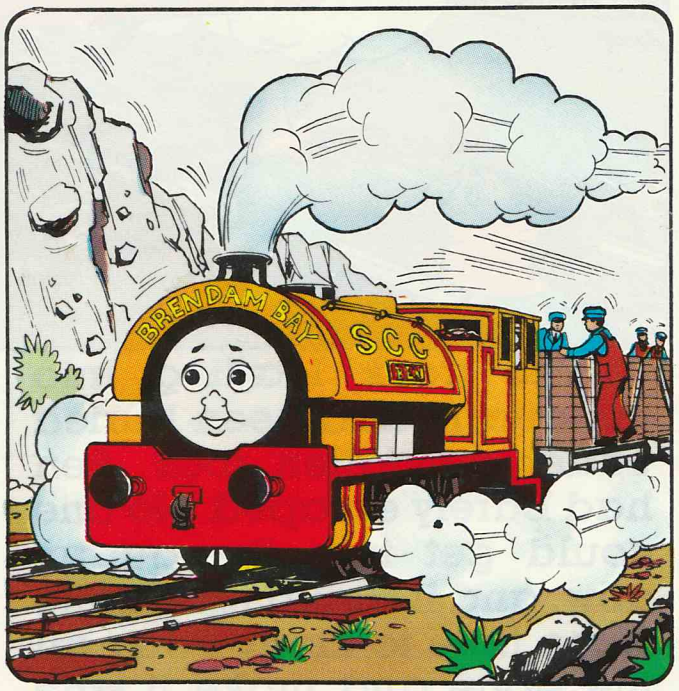


7. One day Bill and Ben were collecting their trucks when they heard a strange noise. "What's that?" asked Bill. "I don't know," said Ben. "Never heard it before."

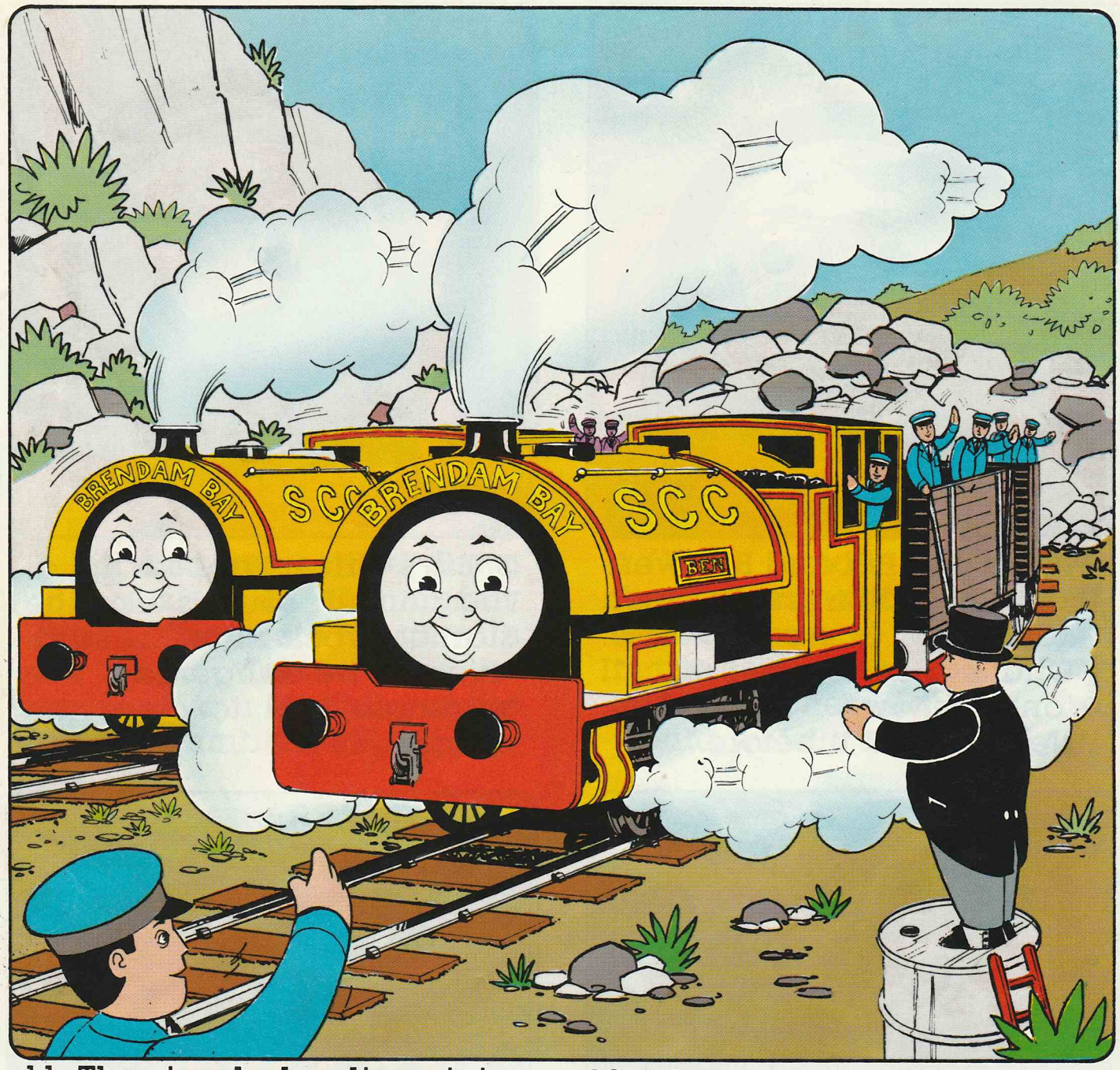


8. Bill's driver looked up at the cliff. "It sounds like the start of a rock-slide," he said. "It could be dangerous." The workmen had to clear the quarry.

9. Bill and Ben waited for all the men to climb onto their trucks. Some rocks had already fallen. As soon as all the men were on board, the twins left the quarry.



10. "Help! Wait!" cried a workman who was left behind. Ben stopped for him to climb on. He pulled away just in time, before a huge rock came tumbling down.



11. The track leading into the quarry had been buried under the fallen rock. Ben had barely escaped. No one could get into the quarry now, and it would take quite some time to clear away all the stone and make it safe again. "Oh dear," said Bill. "Wait until the Fat Controller hears of this." "We'll get the blame," said Ben.

12. "Nonsense," said the workmen. "You are heroes!" But the twins were not convinced. "We'll see what the Fat Controller says," said Bill. "Yes, you shall," said the Fat Controller who had just arrived on Edward. "I have heard what happened and there's just one thing I can say... three cheers for the heroes, Bill and Ben!"

THE END

In our next issue: A near miss for Gordon!